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On 11/20/02

By Katie Zarzana

Katie Zarzana

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: G-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

JEAN WOLOSZKO et al.

Application No.: 09/839,427

Filed: April 20, 2001

For: **BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL CLAMP
FOR REMOVING AND MODIFYING TISSUE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Examiner:

Art Unit: 3732

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Before substantive examination, please amend the subject application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace page 10 with the following:

Fig. 5 is an exploded view of a proximal portion of the electrosurgical probe;

Fig. 6 is an end view of an exemplary electrode support comprising a multi-layer wafer with plated conductors for electrodes;

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the electrode support of Fig. 6;

Figs. 9A-12A are side views of the individual wafer layers of the electrode support;

Figs. 9B-12B are cross-sectional views of the individual wafer layers;

Fig. 13 is a side view of an individual wafer layer;

Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

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Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

Fig. 16 is a perspective view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongated, blade-like active electrode;

Fig. 17A-17C are cross-sectional views of the distal portions of three different embodiments of an electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 18 illustrates an electrosurgical probe with a 90° distal bend and a lateral fluid lumen;

Fig. 19 illustrates an electrosurgical system with a separate fluid delivery instrument according to the present invention;

Figs. 20A and 20B are cross-sectional and end views, respectively, of yet another electrosurgical probe incorporating flattened active electrodes;

Fig. 21 is a detailed end view of an electrosurgical probe having an elongate, linear array of active electrodes suitable for use in surgical cutting;

Fig. 22 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a flattened end at its distal tip;

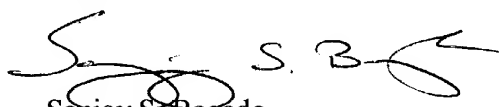
Fig. 23 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a pointed end at its distal tip;

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of the distal portion of another electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 25 illustrates another embodiment of the probe of the present invention, specifically designed for creating incisions in external skin surfaces;

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 736-0224.

Respectfully submitted,


Sanjay S. Bagade
Reg. No. 42,280

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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Fig. 6 is an end view of an exemplary electrode support comprising a multi-layer wafer with plated conductors for electrodes;

Figs. 7 and 8 are side views of the electrode support of Fig. 6;

Figs. 9A-~~12A~~13A are side views of the individual wafer layers of the electrode support;

Figs. 9B-~~12B~~13B cross-sectional views of the individual wafer layers;

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Figs. 14 and 15 illustrate an alternative multi-layer wafer design according to the present invention;

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Fig. 22 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a flattened end at its distal tip;

Fig. 23 is a detailed view of a single active electrode having a pointed end at its distal tip;

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of the distal portion of another electrosurgical probe according to the present invention;

Fig. 25 illustrates another embodiment of the probe of the present invention, specifically designed for creating incisions in external skin surfaces;